



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Southern Region
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December 16, 2004

Source:
Letter to CSLC Commission

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To Whom It May Concern:

Though the Governor's Office of Emergency Services has no direct statutory or regulatory responsibility regarding the establishment or operation of liquefied natural gas terminals, under the Emergency Services Act (ESA), Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, we are responsible for ensuring that local and state agencies are adequately prepared for, can respond to, recovery from, and mitigate against natural, manmade, or war-caused emergencies that threaten life, property or the environment. In support of local emergency management agencies and as the lead State emergency management agency, OES develops the plans and procedures, conducts the training, and supports or conducts the emergency exercises necessary to achieve these goals.

Emergency response in California is primarily "from the bottom up". As codified in the State of California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), Government Code Section 8607, during disasters, local response agencies work through respective mutual aid system to access support from neighboring jurisdictions, within the County, or one of six mutual aid regions in the State. Overall, our agency is responsible to ensure inter-agency and multi-agency coordination. Regional coordination is primarily conducted through one of three Regional Emergency Operations Centers managed by OES with support from the State Operations Center (SOC) in Sacramento. The SOC works with FEMA to coordinate the application of federal resources. At no time do local agencies lose the authority they have within their relative jurisdiction. At the onset of a local emergency/disaster of significance OES dispatches one of three agency representatives (law, fire, emergency management) to either the incident command post and/or the emergency operations center of the impacted county. Their role is to gather disaster information, to identify potential resource needs, and to coordinate state and local resources responding to the situation. If warranted, we may also dispatch staff with specialized technical skills such as hazardous materials experts.

The preparedness and training role of OES is quite clear. Under the ESA, we have the responsibility to ensure that local emergency plans and procedures are in accord with the State of California Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), the

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Thank you for the information. Section 4.2.4.1 discusses this topic.

California Terrorism Response Plan and SEMS. As such, we review local EOPs and procedures on a regular basis. These are based on the local vulnerabilities identified through a standard hazard identification and analysis process. Local government bears the primary responsibility to develop those emergency management system directed at minimizing the risk associated with any identified hazards. This is done in coordination with our office and any state and federal agencies bearing any legal authority regarding the related hazard. Examples of this include the nuclear power plants (San Onofre and Diablo Canyon) as well as oil spills along the coast.

The Southern Region office of OES is currently engaged with the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services to identify the emergency management aspects of the placing of the proposed BHP Billiton Cabrillo Port LNG Deepwater Port Project off the coast of the Cabrillo Point terminal. This includes identifying any impacts on existing response or medical assets, the need to enhance existing emergency response facilities, identification of any enhanced training for response personnel, and the revision of current emergency protocols/procedures.

Other OES staff are reviewing relevant state and federal plans, procedures, training and exercise programs to determine if they are adequate to any hazards identified with LNG terminals. While it is early in the review process, potential outcomes range from no changes to the development of new plans and procedures, the development or revision of training programs provided by the OES run California Specialized Training Institute or other agency training programs and the establishment of an exercise program and schedule.

In conclusion, while our responsibility in terms of the placement of LNG terminals is non-regulatory, we are responsible to ensure that local and State agencies including our own are prepared to respond to any contingency. Generally, this requires a review of planning, training, and exercise activities as well as emergency response assets in light of minimizing the potential negative impacts on life, property and the environment for the citizens of California as defined in the Emergency Services Act. We are undertaking this review in coordination with the County of Ventura and will certainly share our findings.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Stephen J. Sellers

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Regional Administrator

cc: master file, cc, dc